

CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) A method for creating a unique alias associated with an individual identified in at least a first health care database, wherein the first health care database contains at least one record comprising a plurality of identification fields and a health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual, the method comprising:
- (a) selecting a first record within the first health care database, wherein the first record comprises a first plurality of identification fields and a first health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
 - (b) selecting a first subset of the first plurality of identification fields within the first record;
 - (c) creating a first concatenated identifier using the selected first subset of identification fields;
 - (d) defining a first unique alias by encrypting at least a part of the first concatenated identifier; and
 - (e) transmitting the first unique alias and the first health care field to a data store that stores the first unique alias and the first health care field.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the selected first subset comprises at least last name, birthday, and gender.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein health care data comprises at least one of pharmaceutical claims data, medical claims data, or hospital claims data.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

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- [[a.]](a) receiving the first alias and the first health care field; and
- [[b.]](b) storing the first alias and the first health care field in the data store.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising creating a linked plurality of health care fields by linking the first health care field with at least one health care field from one or more other records using the first unique alias.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising performing market analysis using the linked plurality of health care fields.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising performing pharmaceutical analysis using the linked plurality of health care fields.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising performing medical condition analysis using the linked plurality of health care fields.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising performing patient analysis using the linked plurality of health care fields.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
 - [[a.]](a) receiving a second unique alias and a second health care field, wherein the second unique alias comprises an encrypted concatenated subset of identification fields from a health care record associated with the individual; and
 - [[b.]](b) storing the second unique alias and the second health care field in the data store.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising linking the first health care field with the second health care field using the first unique alias and the second unique alias.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

- (a) selecting a second record within a second health care database, wherein the second record comprises a second plurality of identification fields and a second health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
- (b) selecting a second subset of the second plurality of identification fields within the second record;
- (c) creating a second concatenated identifier using the selected second subset of identification fields;
- (d) defining a second unique alias by encrypting at least a portion of the second concatenated identifier; and
- (e) transmitting the second unique alias and the second health care field to the data store, wherein the data store stores the second unique alias and the second health care field.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

- [[a.]](a) receiving the first unique alias and the first health care field;
- [[b.]](b) storing the first unique alias and the first health care field in the data store;
- [[c.]](c) receiving the second unique alias and the second health care field; and
- [[d.]](d) storing the second unique alias and the second health care field in the data store.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising creating a linked first and second health care field by linking the first health care field with the second health care field using the first unique alias and the second unique alias.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising performing market analysis using the linked first and second health care field.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising performing pharmaceutical analysis using the linked first and second health care field.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising performing medical condition analysis using the linked first and second health care field.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising performing patient analysis using the linked first and second health care field.
28. (Previously Presented) A method for creating a unique alias associated with an individual identified in at least a first health care database, wherein the first health care database contains at least one record comprising a plurality of identification fields and a health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual, the method comprising:
- (a) selecting a first record within the first health care database, wherein the first record comprises a first plurality of identification fields and a first health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
 - (b) selecting a first subset of the first plurality of identification fields within the first record;
 - (c) creating a first concatenated identifier using the selected first subset of identification fields;
 - (d) defining a first unique alias by encrypting at least a part of the first concatenated identifier; and
 - (e) linking the first health care field with a plurality of health care fields taken from one or more other records using the first unique alias.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for using a unique alias associated with an individual identified in health care databases, wherein each health care database contains at least one record that comprises a plurality of identification fields and a health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual, the method comprising:

[[a.]](a) receiving a first unique alias and a first health care field, wherein the first unique alias was created by performing the steps of:

- i. selecting a first record within a first health care database, wherein the first record comprises a first plurality of identification fields and a first health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
- ii. selecting a first subset of the first plurality of identification fields within the first record;
- iii. creating a first concatenated identifier using the selected first subset of identification fields; and
- iv. creating the first unique alias by encrypting at least a part of the first concatenated identifier;

[[b.]](b) receiving a second unique alias and a second health care field, wherein the second unique alias was created by performing the steps of:

- i. selecting a second record within a second health care database, wherein the second record comprises a second plurality of identification fields and a second health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
- ii. selecting a second subset of the second plurality of identification fields within the second record;
- iii. creating a second concatenated identifier using the selected second subset of identification fields; and
- iv. creating the second unique alias by encrypting at least a part of the second concatenated identifier;

[[c.]](c) linking the first health care field with the second health care field using the first unique alias and the second unique alias; and

[[d.]](d) performing health care data analysis using the linked first and second health care fields.

30. (New) A computer program product for creating a unique alias associated with an individual identified in at least a first health care database, wherein the first health care database contains at least one record comprising a plurality of identification fields and a health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual, the program product embodied in a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to perform the following:
- (a) selecting a first record within the first health care database, wherein the first record comprises a first plurality of identification fields and a first health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
 - (b) selecting a first subset of the first plurality of identification fields within the first record;
 - (c) creating a first concatenated identifier using the selected first subset of identification fields;
 - (d) defining a first unique alias by encrypting at least a part of the first concatenated identifier; and
 - (e) transmitting the first unique alias and the first health care field to a data store that stores the first unique alias and the first health care field.
31. (New) A computer program product for creating a unique alias associated with an individual identified in at least a first health care database, wherein the first health care database contains at least one record comprising a plurality of identification fields and a health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual, the program product embodied in a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to perform the following:

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- (a) selecting a first record within the first health care database, wherein the first record comprises a first plurality of identification fields and a first health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
- (b) selecting a first subset of the first plurality of identification fields within the first record;
- (c) creating a first concatenated identifier using the selected first subset of identification fields;
- (d) defining a first unique alias by encrypting at least a part of the first concatenated identifier; and
- (e) linking the first health care field with a plurality of health care fields taken from one or more other records using the first unique alias.

32. (New) A computer program product for using a unique alias associated with an individual identified in health care databases, wherein each health care database contains at least one record that comprises a plurality of identification fields and a health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual, the program product embodied in a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to perform the following:

- (a) receiving a first unique alias and a first health care field, wherein the first unique alias was created by performing the steps of:
 - i. selecting a first record within a first health care database, wherein the first record comprises a first plurality of identification fields and a first health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
 - ii. selecting a first subset of the first plurality of identification fields within the first record;
 - iii. creating a first concatenated identifier using the selected first subset of identification fields; and
 - iv. creating the first unique alias by encrypting at least a part of the first concatenated identifier;

- (b) receiving a second unique alias and a second health care field, wherein the second unique alias was created by performing the steps of:
 - i. selecting a second record within a second health care database, wherein the second record comprises a second plurality of identification fields and a second health care field that comprises health care data associated with the individual;
 - ii. selecting a second subset of the second plurality of identification fields within the second record;
 - iii. creating a second concatenated identifier using the selected second subset of identification fields; and
 - iv. creating the second unique alias by encrypting at least a part of the second concatenated identifier;
- (c) linking the first health care field with the second health care field using the first unique alias and the second unique alias; and
- (d) performing health care data analysis using the linked first and second health care fields.